

been called to the fact that Frederick Pearse, of 63, High Street, Andover, had been prosecuted 63 times for the non-vaccination of his children, and had paid upwards of £42 in fines and costs, and that, notwithstanding the unanimous recommendations of the Royal Commission on Vaccination against repeated penalties, the said Frederick Pearse was committed to Her Majesty's prison on February 10th in default of payment of a further fine; and whether he would consider this case with a view to the release of the prisoner.—The HOME SECRETARY: My attention has been called to the case of this man. I see nothing in the facts stated to justify me in advising any interference.

HEALTH OF SOLDIERS AT GIBRALTAR.

Mr. BRODRICK, in reply to Sir H. VINCENT, said the average stay of the last eleven battalions at Gibraltar has been three years. The reports on regiments leaving Gibraltar have not been such as are indicated in the question; the Foot Guards in London, as a rule, have one night out of bed on guard in every eight nights, and the guard duty at Gibraltar is about the same. The health statistics show that in the last ten years the admissions to hospital at Gibraltar were 39 per 1,000 less than in the United Kingdom; the number of men discharged as invalids were 8.7 per 1,000 at Gibraltar, while those discharged in the United Kingdom were 16.34 per 1,000, and the number of deaths at Gibraltar were 4.90 per 1,000, against 5.20 in the United Kingdom.—Colonel LOCKWOOD asked if the right hon. gentlemen meant that the proportion all the year round was seven nights in bed to one out.—Mr. BRODRICK said such was the information supplied to him—7.28 nights to one night out of bed.

PRIVATE LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

Mr. FIELD asked the Home Secretary whether any regular inspection regarding the management of private lunatic asylums and their inmates was made and reported on by responsible Government officials; and, whether the system and working of private lunatic asylums would be inquired into and reported to the House.—The HOME SECRETARY: All licensed houses are regularly visited by the Lunacy Commissioners—those in the metropolitan area six times a year, those outside that area twice. The latter are also visited six times a year by justices and a medical practitioner appointed for the purpose by quarter sessions. I am not aware of any necessity for such an inquiry as that the hon. member suggests.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION AT SIERRA LEONE.

In reply to Mr. BILL, Mr. POWELL WILLIAMS said: The question of where the additional hospital accommodation for Sierra Leone shall be located is still under consideration. An increase to the garrison of Sierra Leone is provided in the estimates, and additional hospital accommodation will be required for the force thus added. It has not yet been decided where at Sierra Leone the whole of the necessary accommodation which will now be required, can most advantageously be provided.

REPORTS, ETC.

On the motion of Mr. PICKERSGILL, a copy has been ordered to be laid on the table of the House of Commons, of the Report of the Chief General Inspector, the Medical Inspector, and the Architect of the Local Government Board on the Sheffield Cottage Homes for Children, together with the reply of the Sheffield Guardians, and the letter addressed to the Guardians by the Board on the subject.

There have been laid upon the table of both Houses copies of a Return to the Lord Chancellor of the number of visits made and the number of patients seen by the several Commissioners in Lunacy during the six months ending on December 31st, 1896.

NOTICES.

HEALTH OF THE INDIAN ARMY.

Major RASCH has given notice of his intention to ask the Secretary for India if he can say when the Departmental Committee of Inquiry on the Health of the Army in India will produce their report, and whether it will be placed in the hands of members when printed.

REPORT ON THE METROPOLITAN POOR-LAW SCHOOLS.

Mr. PICKERSGILL proposes on March 9th to call attention to the report of the recent Committee on Metropolitan Poor-Law Schools, and to the draft Order of the President of the Local Government Board relating to such schools; and to move a resolution.

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

DR. NANSEN.—It is proposed to confer the honorary degree of Doctor of Science on Dr. Fridtjof Nansen at a special Congregation on March 16th.

ANTHROPOLOGY.—Dr. Haddon is this term giving an elementary and an advanced course on Physical Anthropology, with practical work, at the Anatomical School. There is an unusually large attendance.

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL EXAMINATIONS.—The following dates with reference to the forthcoming examinations are just published:

	Names sent in.	Certificates and Fees.	Examination begins.
Third Examination, Part I:			
Surgery and Midwifery ...	... April 1 ...	... April 21 ...	... April 27
Third Examination, Part II:			
Medicine, etc. ...	... April 1 ...	... April 21 ...	... April 27
M.C. Examination ...	... April 21 ...	—	... April 30
Second Examination:			
Pharmacy ...	... June 1 ...	... June 4 ...	... June 14
Anatomy and Physiology ...	... June 2 ...	... June 5 ...	... June 16
First Examination:			
Chemistry and Physics ...	... June 1 ...	... June 4 ...	... June 14
Biology ...	... June 2 ...	... June 5 ...	... June 16

DEGREES.—At the congregation on February 11th, Mr. R. W. Wakefield, of Trinity, was admitted to the degree of B.C., and Mr. E. C. Salt, of Emmanuel, to the degrees of M.B. and B.C.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

INTERMEDIATE EXAMINATION IN MEDICINE.—The following candidates satisfied the examiners:

Entire Examination.—First Division: F. C. Borrow, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; P. C. Colls, King's College. Second Division: J. W. Aldred, Owens College; Cornelia Bonté Sheldon Amos, London School of Medicine for Women; H. R. Beale, St. Thomas's Hospital; H. S. Capper, University College; C. W. Chaplin, London Hospital; D. Davies, University College; H. G. Drake-Brockman, St. George's Hospital; Annie Chapman Gowdie, London School of Medicine for Women; J. L. Holt, Yorkshire College; W. S. Inman, Sheffield Medical School and Firth College; K. F. Lund, University, Cambridge, and University College, Liverpool; Louisa Martindale, London School of Medicine for Women; G. N. Meachen, Guy's Hospital; B. E. Potter, Charing Cross Hospital; H. M. Reeve, Guy's Hospital; W. H. Tattersall, Owens College; Ethel Miller Vernon, London School of Medicine for Women; W. B. Watson, St. Mary's Hospital.

Excluding Physiology.—First Division: F. F. Elwes, Middlesex Hospital; Eric Evans, London School of Medicine and Birkbeck Institute. Second Division: E. C. Bourdas, St. Thomas's Hospital; C. R. Brown, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; H. Burrows, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; W. H. Cazaly, B.A., St. Bartholomew's Hospital; J. M. Collins, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; W. H. Coltart, Birmingham Medical School; W. S. Danks, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; J. B. Davey, Middlesex Hospital; E. P. H. Dudley, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Susan Jane H. Eastwick-Field, London School of Medicine and Royal Free Hospital; A. Fraser, Guy's Hospital; C. S. Frost, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; T. H. Gandy, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; J. S. Gayner, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; E. C. Hadley, Mason College; W. W. Harrison, Guy's Hospital; P. M. Heath, University College; J. G. F. Hosken, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; S. A. Millen, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; A. Moon, Guy's Hospital; J. R. Morton, London Hospital; B. W. Moss, Guy's Hospital; D. T. Price, Bristol Medical School; C. G. Seligmann, St. Thomas's Hospital; W. G. Stewart, Guy's Hospital; P. G. Stock, University College, Bristol; Margaret Helen Style, London School of Medicine for Women; A. B. Vine, Middlesex Hospital; J. F. Walker, London Hospital; Charlotte Louise Weetman, London School of Medicine for Women; A. J. W. Wells, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; R. E. B. Wilmot, St. Mary's Hospital.

Physiology only.—First Division:—T. Aubrey, University College, Bristol; G. V. Miller, University College; W. B. Secretan, Guy's Hospital; J. G. C. Taunton, Mason College. Second Division:—F. Butterfield, Owens College and Manchester Royal Infirmary; A. H. Carter, Guy's Hospital; C. E. Durrant, St. Thomas's Hospital; H. D. Everington, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; H. E. C. Fox, Guy's Hospital; E. A. Gates, St. Thomas's Hospital; F. L. A. Greaves, St. Thomas's Hospital; Helen Beatrice Hanson, London School of Medicine for Women; H. W. Harding, St. Thomas's Hospital; R. Hatfield, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; E. Leach, Owens College; T. Marles-Thomas, University College; J. A. Mawson, Yorkshire College; J. A. O'Dowd, Mason College; G. C. Owsley, Guy's Hospital; A. Ricketts, University College; H. A. Schölsberg, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; S. R. Scott, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; J. Thornton, London Hospital; L. A. Walker, St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND.

BARKER ANATOMICAL PRIZES FOR 1897.—A prize of £26 5s. is offered for competition, and is open to any student whose name is on the anatomical class list of any school in the United Kingdom. The preparations entered must be placed in charge of the Curator before June 1st, 1897, from whom all particulars can be obtained. The prize is offered for a dissection of the region in front of the sterno-mastoid; above the cricoid, with special relation to lateral pharyngotomy; the removal of tonsillar tumours and of infiltrated glands in cancer of the tongue. The cost and risks of transport must be borne by the student. The College will not be responsible for any damage the preparations may sustain; but those of unsuccessful competitors residing at a distance will be carefully repacked and handed to the carriers for delivery at such address as may be specified by the student.

NAVAL AND MILITARY MEDICAL SERVICES.

ARMY MEDICAL STAFF.

The undermentioned Surgeon-Majors, having completed twenty years' full-pay service, are promoted to be Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonels from February 4th:—MICHAEL R. RYAN, M.D., EDWARD O. REYNOLDS, HENRY J. ROBBINS, M.D., JOHN J. MORRIS, M.D., AYLMER E. HAYES, D.S.O., JOHN F. WILLIAMSON, M.B., JOHN T. CAREY, M.B., WM. J. R. RAINFORD, F.R.C.S.I., ISAAC BOULGER, THOMAS BOYD, PERCY H. JOHNSTON, M.D., ISAAC B. EMERSON, EUGENIUS A. ROCHE, ULICK J. BOURKE, JOSEPH J. LAMPREY, WILLIAM H. ALLEN, JONES L. PEYTON, M.B., ARTHUR W. CARLETON, F.R.C.S.I., GEORGE A. HUGHES, M.B., BRISBANE W. SOMERVILLE-LARGE, F.R.C.S. Ed., PHINEAS B. TUTTILL, M.D. F.R.C.S.I., JOHN P. HUNT, M.D. F.R.C.S.I. The previous commissions of all these officers are: Surgeon, February 4th, 1877; Surgeon-Major, February 4th, 1889. Their war services are as follow: M. R. Ryan—Afghan war in 1878-79, including capture of Ali Musjid (medal with clasp); Egyptian war of 1882, and battle of Tel-el-Kebir (medal with clasp and Khedive's star). E. O. Reynolds—Egyptian war of 1882, and battle of Tel-el-Kebir (medal with clasp and Khedive's star); Hazara expedition in 1888 (medal with clasp). H. J. Robbins—Afghan war in 1878-79, with the Koorum Valley Column, including Zaimusht expedition under Brigadier General Tytler, and was present with the 85th Regiment in the assault of Zawa (medal). J. J. Morris—Afghan war in 1878-79 with the Koorum Field Force, and in 1879-80 with the Cabul Field Force; the engagement at Charasiah and the actions around Cabul in December, 1879; was in medical charge of the 92nd Highlanders in the engagement at Charasiah in April, 1880 (men-

tioned in despatches, medal with two clasps). A. E. Hayes—Afghan war of 1878-80 (medal); operations near Suakin in December, 1888, including the engagement at Gemaizah (mentioned in despatches, medal with clasp, 3rd Class of the Medjidie, and Khedive's star), and operations on the Soudan frontier in 1889, including the engagement of Toski (mentioned in despatches, D.S.O., and clasp). J. F. Williamson—Afghan war in 1878-79; engagement at Charasiah on October 6th, 1879, and the operations round Cabul in December, 1879; with Sir Frederick Roberts in the march to Candahar, and present at the battle of Candahar (mentioned in despatches, medal with three clasps, and bronze decoration); Egyptian war of 1882, and present at the battle of Tel-el-Kebir (medal with clasp, and Khedive's star); Burmese expedition in 1887-88 (medal with clasp). J. T. Carey—Afghan war of 1878-80, and at the storming of the Peiwar Kotal (mentioned in despatches, medal with clasp); Egyptian war of 1882 (medal and Khedive's star). W. J. R. Rainsford—Afghan war in 1878-80 with the Khyber Field Force (medal); Egyptian war of 1882 (medal, and Khedive's star); also in the operations of the Soudan Frontier Field Force in 1885-86. I. Boulger—Afghan war of 1878-80 (medal). T. Boyd—Egyptian war of 1882 and battle of Tel-el-Kebir (medal with clasp and Khedive's star); Nile expedition in 1884-85, and had charge of the field hospital at Ahsarat (clasp). P. H. Johnston—Afghan war in 1879-80, with Zaimusht expedition, including the assault of Zawa (medal). I. B. Emerson—Afghan war in 1878-79 (medal). E. A. Roche—Afghan war of 1878-80 (medal). U. J. Bourke—Soudan campaign in 1885, engagement at Hashen, and destruction of Temai (medal with clasp and Khedive's star). W. H. Allen—Egyptian war of 1882 (medal and Khedive's star); operations in Zululand in 1888. J. P. Hunt—Soudan Frontier Field Force in 1885-86 (medal and Khedive's star). J. L. Peyton—Soudan campaign in 1885 (medal with clasp and Khedive's star). A. W. Carleton—Afghan war of 1878-80, and engagement at Ahmed Kheyl (medal with clasp); Egyptian war of 1882 (medal and Khedive's star); also with the Nile expedition in 1884-85 (clasp). G. A. Hughes—Afghan war of 1878-80 (medal); Bechuana-land expedition in 1884-85; Ashanti expedition of 1895-6 (star).

Surgeon-Captain J. R. FORRESTER, who entered the service as Surgeon, February 2nd, 1884, is promoted to be Surgeon-Major, January 31st. He was in the Soudan campaign in 1885, receiving a medal with clasp and the Khedive's bronze star.

The undermentioned Surgeons on probation are appointed Surgeon-Lieutenants from January 28th: GEORGE E. F. STAMMERS, CHARLES F. WAMHILL, WILFRID E. HUDLESTON, MARTIN P. CORKERY, FREDERICK J. GAINE, LEONARD A. WILLIAMS, ERNEST W. BLISS, MALCOLM M. RATTRAY, M.B.; JOHN H. POWER, RICHARD E. G. PHILLIPS, THOMAS H. M. CLARKE, M.B.; EDWIN W. P. V. MARRIOTT.

Surgeon-Captain HUGH RAYNER, M.B., is transferred from the Grenadier Guards, to which he was appointed April 14th, 1886, to the Royal Horse Guards, February 13th.

WE understand that Surgeon-Lieut.-Colonel J. J. Lamprey has sent in an application for leave to retire. He served as a volunteer for many years on the West Coast of Africa. During that time he creditably filled many appointments, acting as Colonial Surgeon, Cape Coast Castle and as acting Police Magistrate and Coroner for Sierra Leone. He was Senior Medical Officer of the West African Settlements during the yellow fever epidemic at Sierra Leone in 1884, an account of which was published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of September 26th, 1885. Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Lamprey was appointed Medical Officer to the Anglo-French Boundary Commission, Sierra Leone, and accompanied it into the Western Soudan.

Quartermaster and Hon. Captain JOHN HORN is placed on retired pay, February 17th.

Sergeant-Major HUBERT JOHN SCOTT, Medical Staff Corps, is appointed Quartermaster, with the honorary rank of Lieutenant, *vice* Honorary Captain J. HORN, February 17th.

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

SURGEON-GENERAL JAMES LANCASTER RANKING, late of the Madras Army, died at Leamington suddenly on February 6th, in his 80th year.

MEDICAL STAFF CORPS.

It is announced that the Medical Staff Corps is no longer to be instructed in the transport of sick and wounded by litters, and those means of conveyance have been withdrawn from the equipment of the corps.

THE VOLUNTEERS.

THE undermentioned gentlemen are appointed Surgeon-Lieutenants in the corps specified, dated February 17th: WILLIAM H. R. FORSBROOK, M.D., 1st Volunteer Battalion the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment); WILLIAM E. FOGGIE, M.B., 3rd (Dundee Highland) Volunteer Battalion the Black Watch (Royal Highlanders); EDWARD LAY PEYTON, M.B., 5th (Perthshire Highland) Volunteer Battalion the Black Watch (Royal Highlanders); JAMES C. POTTER, M.B., and ROBERT E. BROWNE, 2nd Volunteer Battalion the Durham Light Infantry.

Surgeon-Lieutenant W. A. RENSHAW, 3rd Volunteer Battalion the Cheshire Regiment, and Honorary Assistant Surgeon C. L. EVERSHED, 2nd Volunteer Battalion the Royal Sussex Regiment, have resigned their commissions, February 17th.

THE EXAMINATION FOR THE R.N. MEDICAL SERVICE.

By the kindness of the Director-General we have been furnished with a copy of the revised regulations for entry into the Naval Medical Service. The examination, though generally following the same lines as heretofore, has been considerably altered in its details. The four compulsory subjects remain unchanged, but, whereas formerly each had 1,000 marks assigned to it, Medicine (with which are included therapeutics and the diseases of women and children) now carries 1,200 marks, as also does Surgery, while the papers in Anatomy and Physiology, and Chemistry, and Materia Medica each have, as a maximum, 600. Of the voluntary subjects the marks for French and German have each been raised from 150 to 200; but the number obtainable for natural science has been reduced by one-third. Till now the science subjects were Biology, Physics, and Physical Geography, and the candidate was allowed to take all or any of these, each one counting 300 marks. The new regulations have not altered the marks for the individual subjects, but Biology has now been split up into

Zoology and Botany, and no candidate is allowed to compete in more than two of the four sciences thus defined. The net result is to decrease the number of marks obtainable in the compulsory subjects from 4,000 to 3,600, and those in science from 900 to 600, while the maximum for languages is raised from 300 to 400. The syllabuses for Zoology and Botany are, of course, considerably more extended than was the old Biology one, and those for Physics and Physical Geography have undergone but slight alterations, mainly of no more than a verbal character.

CHANGES OF STATION.

THE following changes of Station amongst the officers of the Army Medical Staff have been officially notified to have taken place during the past month:

	From.	To.
Surgeon-Col. J. P. Rooney	Gibraltar	Edinburgh.
Brig.-Surge.-Lieut.-Col. R. Harman, M.B.	Shorncliffe	Madras.
	W. B. Slaughter	Bengal.
Surge.-Lieut.-Col. S. H. Carter, M.B.	Malta	"
Surge.-Major W. J. R. Rainsford	Aldershot	"
" E. A. Roche	Newport	Curragh.
" H. C. Kirkpatrick, M.D.	Winchester	Bombay.
" N. Leader	Devonport	Newport.
" J. Stevenson, M.B.	Manchester	Bombay.
" K. S. Wallis	Bombay	Southern Dist.
" J. W. H. Flanagan	Preston	Bengal.
" T. Dorman, M.D.	Nova Scotia	Cork.
" B. T. McCreery, M.B.	Punjab	Dublin.
" D. Wardrop, M.B.	Bengal	Dover.
" F. M. Baker, M.B.	Malta	Thames Dist.
" J. L. Hall	Nova Scotia	Woolwich.
" J. G. S. Lewis	Half-pay	Waterford.
" G. H. Sylvester	Punjab	Aldershot.
" D. L. Irvine	Gibraltar	Colchester.
" H. J. Barnes	Bombay	Gosport.
" R. Jennings, M.D.	Portsmouth	Hilsea.
" R. Porter, M.B.	Hilsea	Winchester.
" G. T. Trewman, M.B.	Curragh	Bengal.
" W. G. Clements	W. Africa	Chatham.
" H. E. R. James	Hong Kong	Home District.
" J. W. Jerome	Glasgow	Malta.
" A. A. Pechell	Chester	Hulme.
" E. H. Lynden-Bell, M.B.	Bermuda	Maryhill.
" C. E. Faunce	Portsmouth	Gibraltar.
" G. F. Gubbin	Bermuda	Chatham.
" G. D. Hunter, D.S.O.	Egypt	Cork.
" A. de C. Scanlan	Half-pay	Woking.
Surge.-Capt. J. R. Forrest	Waterford	Cork District.
" G. Cree	Dover	Gibraltar.
" L. T. M. Nash	Aldershot	Punjab.
" A. A. Sutton	Bombay	Devonport.
" F. J. W. Stoney	Dublin	Limerick.
" D. M. Saunders, M.D.	Burnley	Gibraltar.
" F. S. Clark, M.B.	Dover	Shorncliffe.
" G. F. Alexander, M.B.	Punjab	Cork.
" J. Paterson, M.B.	Bengal	Netley.
" A. Wright	Woking	Nova Scotia.
" R. J. Copeland, M.B.	Bombay	Gosport.
" J. Girvin	"	Cork.
" H. J. Parry, M.B.	"	Aldershot.
Surge.-Lieut. K. M. Cameron, M.B.	Aldershot	Bengal.
" P. Evans, M.B.	Gosport	Punjab.
" J. M. Buist, M.B.	Dublin	"
" J. Walker, M.B.	Belfast	Bombay.
" F. Dove	Woolwich	"
" D. Lawson	Gosport	Bengal.
" E. B. Steel, M.B.	Chatham	"
" F. Kiddle, M.B.	Devonport	Bombay.
" H. E. Staddon	Spike Island	"
" L. P. Tomlinson	Shorncliffe	Madras.
" S. J. C. P. Perry	Dublin	"
" G. B. Riddick	Portsmouth	Gosport.
" A. J. MacDougall, M.B.	Piershill	Glasgow.
" R. W. Clements, M.B.	Cork	Spike Island.
Quartermaster J. Mathews	Edinburgh	Gibraltar.

ASSISTANT SANITARY COMMISSIONER, INDIA.

THE Secretary of State for India has sanctioned the extension of the term of office of Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel D. D. Cunningham as Special Assistant to the Sanitary Commissioner to the Government of India for a further period of one year and ten months, with effect from December 1st, 1896.

THE DONGOLA EXPEDITION.

IN his speech in moving for the special grant for the expenses of the last Soudan expedition the Chancellor of the Exchequer spoke of the small cost to life which this expedition had involved. No more, he said, out of the whole Egyptian force than 47 persons were killed in action, 235 fell victims to cholera, and rather more than 100 to other forms of disease during the months the campaign lasted. Probably with regard to that latter point as many lives would have been lost if the troops had remained at home. I do not think that any more complete success was ever obtained by any expedition that was ever undertaken. Although Sir Michael Hicks-Beach's speech did not mention the medical staff of the expedition, it will be universally recognised that no small part of the credit belongs to the Principal Medical Officer, Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Galloway, and his staff.

INCREASE OF THE ARMY VETERINARY DEPARTMENT IN INDIA.

THE Secretary of State has sanctioned an addition of two officers to the Army Veterinary Department Establishment in India to meet the in-

creased requirements of the remount depôts. The recent decision to create a reserve of 1,000 horses in connection with the mobilisation scheme will have the effect of augmenting these establishments and their wants. This announcement is significant in face of the short-handedness of the Army Medical Staff in India.

MEDICO-LEGAL.

EXTRAORDINARY CONDUCT OF A CORONER.

UNDER the heading "A Doctor's Insulting Message" the *East Anglian Daily Times* reports an incident that occurred at an inquest held by Mr. J. Harrison, one of the Essex coroners, at the Anchor Inn, Wivenhoe, on the body of Henry Robert Childs, who committed suicide by drowning.

It would appear that the coroner sent his officer to Dr. Hewlett, who attended the deceased some time before, to ask for information without summoning the doctor as a witness at the inquest. The latter consequently refused to give any information, intimating that if his evidence were required he ought to be summoned in the usual manner.

The coroner is reported to have thereupon got angry, and to have said, "You tell Dr. Hewlett from me that if he sends me messages like that I shall commit him for contempt of court, and he will find himself in a funny position." And he afterwards expressed his determination to "have the doctor before the court next time he held an inquest in Wivenhoe, unless in the meantime he had an apology," for he "had great powers, although he seldom exercised them."

The coroner may have "great powers," but it is questionable whether they extend to summoning a doctor before his court, and reprimanding him for doing that which he has a legal right to do. Complaints reach us occasionally from other parts of the country that attempts are sometimes made to worm information out of medical men before the inquest, in order to avoid the expense of summoning them as witnesses.

Medical men are quite right in refusing to become parties to such practices. If medical evidence is required at an inquest, it is the duty of the coroner to summon the medical witness in the usual way, and to pay him his legal fee. Medical evidence given secondhand by the coroner's officer is opposed to the first principles of law, and ought to be excluded from any court that claims the faintest resemblance to a court of justice.

IN RE THE LONDON HEALTH ELECTRICAL INSTITUTE, LIMITED.

In the Supreme Court, according to the *Times* report of February 13th, an appeal was heard, before the Lords Justices Lindley, A. L. Smith, and Rigby, from a decision of Mr. Justice Vaughan Williams dismissing a creditor's petition for the winding up of the above-named company. The company was registered in September, 1892, and was formed for the purpose of acquiring the business of the "Magneto-Electric Battery Company" and the "London Health Electric Institute," formerly carried on by Messrs. Spalding. The company was heavily indebted to the petitioners for printing and advertising. The company very soon got into difficulties in consequence, as stated by counsel, of the exposure of the Harness belt business, which was alleged to be similar to the business proposed to be carried on by the company, and it was admittedly insolvent at the date of the petition. After hearing counsel the Court dismissed the appeal, and in the course of the judgment Lord Justice Lindley stated that, with every possible desire to assist the creditors, the Court was bound to accept the decision of the House of Lords in *Salomon v. Salomon and Co.* Lord Justice A. L. Smith concurred and further stated that if he could he would wind up the company and sweep it off the face of the earth, because he was quite certain its continued existence could not benefit a single human being. Lord Justice Rigby agreed with the learned judge below, both in his expression of regret and in his judgment that nothing could be done.

It is quite certain after this decision and the judgment of the House of Lords in the "one-man company" case referred to that an amendment to the Companies Act is imperatively required for the protection of the public.

PARTNERSHIP ACCOUNT.

MEMBER writes: X. and Z. are both in practice in the same town. X. agrees to sell his practice to Z., giving a three-months' partnership introduction. The purchase money is to be paid on commencement of said partnership introduction. Do both X. and Z. or either of them show receipts and expenses during the three-months' partnership introduction? In other words, is a short partnership introduction the same as a real partnership, or is it only a nominal partnership?

*** We are advised that X. would be entitled to the full partnership benefits during the period of introduction in respect of that portion of the business sold by him to Z., but of course to no share in the profits of Z.'s own original practice.

ASSISTANT AND PRINCIPAL.

AN ASSISTANT wishes to know whether he has any claim on his principal for (1) acting as an anaesthetist for him during an operation; (2) introducing new patients.

*** An assistant has no legal claim on his principal under these circumstances in the absence of special agreement to the contrary on entering his service.

UNQUALIFIED PRACTICE.

QUACK.—Unqualified practitioners are liable to penalties under the Apothecaries Act if they prescribe and compound medicines for patients. It is not likely that the university would take cognisance of such a case, as the matter is outside its jurisdiction.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S QUARTERLY RETURN.

THE Registrar has just issued his return relating to the births and deaths registered in England and Wales during the fourth or autumn quarter of last year, and to the marriages during the three months ending September last. The marriage-rate was equal to 16.8 per 1,000 of the population, and exceeded the rate recorded in the corresponding quarter of any year since 1873.

The births registered in England and Wales during the three months ending December last numbered 235,561, and were equal to an annual rate of 30.1 per 1,000 of the population, estimated by the Registrar-General to be nearly thirty-one millions in the middle of the year. This rate was slightly above the mean rate in the corresponding periods of the ten preceding years, and exceeded that recorded in the fourth quarter of any of the four preceding years. The birth-rates in the several counties ranged from 19.8 in Rutlandshire, 23.6 in Sussex, and 23.8 in Westmorland to 34.2 in South Wales, 34.3 in Monmouthshire, 35.2 in Durham, and 35.6 in Staffordshire. In thirty-three of the largest English towns, including London, the birth-rate last quarter averaged 31.3 per 1,000, and exceeded by 1.2 per 1,000 the general English rate. In London the birth-rate was 30.7 per 1,000, while it averaged 31.7 in the thirty-two large provincial towns, among which it ranged from 22.6 in Huddersfield, 24.4 in Halifax, and 24.6 in Brighton to 35.7 in Cardiff, 35.9 in Salford, 36.2 in Wolverhampton, and 36.5 in Gateshead.

The births registered in England and Wales during the quarter ending December last exceeded the deaths by 95,932; this represents the natural increase of the population during that period. It appears from returns issued by the Board of Trade that 48,438 emigrants embarked during last quarter, for places outside Europe, from the various ports of the United Kingdom at which emigration officers are stationed. Of these, 24,798 were English, 3,808 Scotch, 5,230 Irish, and 14,602 were of foreign origin. Compared with the averages in the corresponding periods of recent years, the proportion of English and Irish emigrants showed a decline, and that of Scotch emigrants showed an increase.

During the fourth quarter of 1896 the deaths of 139,629 persons were registered in England and Wales, equal to an annual rate of 17.9 per 1,000 of the estimated population; this rate was 1.6 per 1,000 below the average rate in the corresponding quarters of the ten preceding years. The lowest county death-rates last quarter were 11.1 in Westmorland, 13.3 in Middlesex, 13.6 in Rutlandshire, and 14.1 in Surrey; while the highest rates were 19.7 in Warwickshire and in South Wales, 20.6 in Lancashire, 21.0 in Staffordshire, and 21.1 in Nottinghamshire. In the urban population of the country, estimated at nearly twenty-one millions, the rate of mortality during the quarter under notice was equal to 18.6 per 1,000; while in the remaining and chiefly rural population of nearly ten millions the rate was 16.3 per 1,000. These rates were respectively 1.1 and 0.2 per 1,000 below the average rates in the corresponding quarters of the ten preceding years. Among thirty-three of the largest English towns the mean death-rate was 18.8 per 1,000, or 0.9 per 1,000 in excess of the death-rate in the whole country. In London the rate was 18.1 per 1,000, while it averaged 19.4 in the thirty-two large provincial towns, among which the rates ranged from 14.6 in Croydon, 14.9 in Leicester, 15.4 in Derby, 15.5 in West Ham, and 15.6 in Portsmouth to 21.9 in Manchester, 22.6 in Preston, 22.9 in Plymouth, and 23.1 in Liverpool. In sixty-seven other large towns, with an estimated aggregate population of about three and a half millions, the mean death-rate was 18.2 per 1,000, or 0.6 per 1,000 below the rate in the thirty-three large towns.

The 139,629 deaths from all causes registered in England and Wales during the three months ending December last included 3,358 which resulted from measles, 2,522 from diphtheria, 2,376 from whooping-cough, 1,670 from diarrhoea, 1,567 from scarlet fever, 1,464 from "fever" (including typhus, enteric, and ill-defined forms of continued fever), and 9 from small-pox; in all, 12,966 deaths were referred to these principal zymotic diseases, equal to an annual rate of 1.65 per 1,000, against an average rate of 2.02 in the corresponding quarters of the ten preceding years. The mortality from diphtheria showed an excess last quarter, while that from each of the other principal zymotic diseases was below the average. Only 9 fatal cases of small-pox were recorded in England and Wales during last quarter, of which 8 were registered in Redruth district and 1 in Carnarvon district.

The rate of infant mortality in England and Wales last quarter, or the proportion of deaths under 1 year of age to registered births, was equal to 146 per 1,000, and was slightly below the mean proportion in the corresponding periods of the ten preceding years. In London the rate of infant mortality was 138 per 1,000, while it averaged 158 in the thirty-two large provincial towns, among which it ranged from 111 in Portsmouth, 129 in Bristol, 134 in Leicester, and 135 in Derby to 203 in Plymouth, 204 in Nottingham, 208 in Blackburn, and 235 in Preston.

The mean temperature of the air during last quarter at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, was 42.4°, and was 1.2° below the average in the corresponding quarters of 125 years; the mean was 2.9° below the average in October, and 1.9° below in November, but showed an excess of 1.2° in December. The rainfall during the quarter amounted to 6.99 inches, or 0.13 inch below the average.

HEALTH OF ENGLISH TOWNS.

In thirty-three of the largest English towns, including London, 7,454 births and 4,128 deaths were registered during the week ending Saturday last, February 13th. The annual rate of mortality in these towns, which had increased from 19.2 to 20.8 per 1,000 in the four preceding weeks, declined to 19.6 last week. The rates in the several towns ranged from 12.5 in Croydon, 12.6 in Cardiff, 13.4 in Gateshead, and 14.2 in Halifax to 23.9 in Manchester, 24.2 in Huddersfield, 25.5 in Liverpool, and 26.2 in Plymouth. In the thirty-two provincial towns the mean death-rate was 20.3 per 1,000, and was 1.7 above the rate recorded in London